

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P 131250Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4643

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMTM DHAHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T JIDDA 3450

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF FOR ISA; USCINCEUR

NICOSIA FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, TC

SUBJ: EMERGENCY ARMS FOR YAR

REF: (A) STATE 159482 (B) SANAA 1514

1. DATT HAS JUST RETURNED FROM YAR. IN HIS OPINION YAR HAS URGENT OPERATIONAL NEED FOR SMALL ARMS AND AMMO APPLICABLE TO COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS AND HAS PSYCHOLOGICAL NEED FOR SIGNIFICANT SHIPMENTS MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL DEMONSTRATE TO ARMED FORCES THAT YARG IS OBTAINING SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS NOW THAT YARG IS TURNING AWAY FROM EASTERN BLOC.

2. ALL THE WEAPONS AND AMMO REQUESTED APPEAR JUSTIFIED ANDR REASONABLE. IN PARTICULAR THE 106 RECOILLESS HAS EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN ARMED FORCES THIS REGION AND QUANTITY REQUESTED

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SHOULD GIVE NEEDED PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST AS WELL AS FLEXIBILITY

IN OPERATIONS IN RUGGED TERRAIN. AT BAB EL MANDEB WHERE YARG FEARS A PDRY ARMORED THRUST UP THE TIHAMA PLAIN, YAR ARMY HAS POSITIONED TANKS ON MOUNTAIN TOP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS FOR LACK OF SUITABLE ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. REPLACEMENT BY 106 RECOILLESS WOULD FREE TANKS FOR BETTER UTILIZATION AS RESERVE COUNTERATTACK FORCE.

3. AGREE WITH SANAA (REF B) THAT WE CALCULATE MATERIAL COST AT 1.9 RATHER THAN 2.7 MILLION DOLLARS. SINCE SHAIKH ZAYID OF ABU DHABI HAS NOT ANNOUNCED ANY CEILING ON PRICE HE WILLING TO PAY, RECOMMEND WE TRY FOR ENTIRE PACKAGE TO INCLUDE 106 RECOILLESS.

4. CRITICAL THAT 106 AMMO INCLUDE ADEQUATE QUANTITY CAL .50 SPOTTER ROUNDS AS WELL AS 106 MM AMMO. AMMO RECEIVED BY YAR ARMY FOR 106 RIFLES PROVIDED BY SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT INCLUDE SPOTTER ROUNDS THUS TRAINING AND EFFECTIVENESS GREATLY REDUCED. THACHER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF; USCINCEUR

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NNN

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